

John Kennedy didn't hesitate to federalize the National Guard and put the whole city of Montgomery under martial law. It's baffling to me that we didn't have the ability or the will to do something much earlier. We still haven't had the passionate statement that should be made by officials in this administration.

It's so glaring that the great majority of people crying out for help are poor, they're black. There's a whole segment of society that's being left behind. When you tell people to evacuate, these people didn't have any way to leave. They didn't have any cars, any SUVs.

It's so strange that when we have something like this happening, the president gets two ex-presidents—his father and Bill Clinton—to raise money. What they propose to do is good and I appreciate all the work the private sector and the faith-based community are doing. But when we get ready to go to war, we don't go around soliciting resources with a bucket or an offering plate. We have the courage to come before Congress and debate the issue, authorize money. That's what we need to do here. By next year we'll have spent \$400 to 500 billion in Afghanistan and Iraq. That money could be used to help rebuild the lives of people. If we fail to act as a nation, I don't think history will be kind to us.

We've got to do more than the \$10 billion that Congress appropriated. We need a massive Marshall-type plan to rebuild New Orleans. But in rebuilding we should see this as an opportunity to rebuild urban America. New Orleans could be a model. There must be a commitment of billions and billions of dollars—maybe \$50 to 100 billion. I think even in other urban centers, there are people who are just barely existing. We sing the song "hope is on the way," but it's taking a long time before hope arrives. It becomes very discouraging where you see people dying—children, the elderly, the sick—the lack of food and water. I've cried a lot of tears the past few days as I watched television—to see some body lying dead outside the convention center. I went to Somalia in 1992 and I saw little babies dying before my eyes. This reminded me of Somalia. But this is America. We're not a third-world country. This is an embarrassment. It's a shame. It's a national disgrace.

John Lewis is the U.S. Congressman from the 5th District of Georgia.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING DAVE MATTIO

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dave Mattio, Marian Catholic High School graduate and head coach of the Spartan football squad for 29 seasons.

The message that Coach Mattio instills in his players is "energy and ownership" and his accomplishments demonstrate the success of this motto.

Over the course of his 29 seasons with the Spartans, Coach Mattio has created a football program that remains among the most successful in the state of Illi-

nois. Among his many accomplishments, Coach Mattio has seen hundreds of his players go on to play football in college and three go on to the National Football League.

Coach Mattio has led the Marian Catholic Spartans to a state championship and a Chicagoland Prep Bowl championship. He has also shown consistency, with teams qualifying for the playoffs 16 times and compiling winning records 26 of the last 29 seasons.

Coach Mattio's successes have been recognized many times by his peers. He was inducted into the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1997 as well as the Marian Catholic Alumni Association Hall of Fame in 1994. He was also named the Frank Leahy Prep Coach of the Year in 1994.

I congratulate Dave Mattio on his accomplishments as head coach of the Marian Catholic Spartans and wish him many more years of happiness and accomplishment, both on and off the football field.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On August 15, 2004, Joel Robles was stabbed 20 times in Fresno, CA. The apparent motivation for the stabbing was that he was a transgendered woman. Robles' body was later found inside his apartment where he had died, according to police.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that are born out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

A FORGOTTEN WAR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise to speak of Chechnya, a remote part of the world where horrific crimes and suffering are occurring every day, that has faded from the newspapers and the minds of many of us here.

Contrary to the myth perpetrated by the Russian Government that the conflict is over and life in Chechnya is returning to normal, the Russian military and the militias they support continue to use brutal, even barbaric tactics, including extra-judicial executions, arbitrary detention, kidnappings, rape, and torture. Armed opposition forces are also terrifying in-

nocent civilians with their indiscriminate attacks. There seems to be no end to this conflict or to the suffering of the Chechen people.

The Bush administration has been conspicuously silent about what is happening. One can only hope that President Bush has expressed alarm about the atrocities being committed by Russian soldiers in Chechnya in his meetings or conversations with President Putin, but there is no indication that if he has it has had any effect.

There is certainly no evidence that the administration has exerted any real pressure on President Putin to reign in the Russian military, presumably because it does not want to jeopardize Russia's support for U.S. operations in Iraq and combating international terrorism. But contrary to what the Russian Government and some in the Bush administration insist, the violence in Chechnya has far more to do with self-determination than with international terrorism. While acts of terrorism by all parties to the conflict remain common, most Chechen resistance fighters have taken up arms to seek revenge for the atrocities and impunity of Russian soldiers.

In each of the last 6 years, the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act has included a provision to withhold a portion of our assistance to the Russian Government unless the President certifies that international nongovernmental humanitarian organizations are provided full access to Chechnya. Every year, the Russian Government fails to comply.

In the Senate-passed version of the fiscal year 2006 Foreign Operations bill, we included \$5 million for humanitarian, conflict mitigation, relief and recovery assistance for Chechnya, Ingushetia, and elsewhere in the North Caucasus region. This funding, in addition to the \$5 million for this purpose in the fiscal year 2005 supplemental, will provide much needed relief and development assistance for civilians caught in the midst of this conflict.

But it is essential that this assistance be coupled with a strong message of concern and condemnation by the administration. The message should be loud and clear that war crimes by the Russian military, and by resistance fighters, must stop.

It is obvious that despite President Putin's rosy portrayal of the situation, there is no military solution to the Chechnyan conflict. The only hope for resolving it is through a process of demilitarization and political dialogue, and I suspect that will require the active and sustained participation of a credible third party, such as the United Nations. This is what the United States should be pressing for. It is long past time for the White House to stop giving the Russian Government a free pass on Chechnya.